

THE DUANE STREET DISASTER.

Sorrowful Scenes at the Church and Hospital.

PUBLIC SYMPATHY AROUSED.

Handsome Subscriptions Already Flowing In.

ACTION OF THE CORONERS.

Three More Deaths of Victims Anticipated.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

What Building Superintendent Adams Reported.

The terrible accident which occurred in St. Andrew's church, Duane street, Thursday evening, was yesterday a topic of general conversation and a cause of profound grief in all parts of the city. When the news had spread that several persons had been killed or wounded while attending to their devotions in the church, an interest was everywhere manifested not often a consequence of even a calamity which brings sudden death and maiming to many persons in our midst. In the lower sections of the city, especially, the people were most earnestly sympathetic, and at an early hour hundreds of persons lined the sidewalks in the vicinity of the disaster, eagerly observing the buildings and discussing the causes which might have led to the unfortunate occurrence. As the people came down town to their daily avocations new accessions were added to the crowds, and all through the forenoon, afternoon and evening the police were busy in keeping the passageway along the street clear. Men, women and children seemed to look at the church edifice with a wondering gaze, and lingered around in the immediately adjoining streets with a demeanor showing that they were deeply interested in the catastrophe, and suffering that had so suddenly befallen so many worthy persons. The poorer classes seemed as if a sudden bereavement, personal to all of them, had stricken them down. In thefulness of their astonishment and grief they were loud in genuine lamentation. People of this class in large numbers had also come from the uptown districts, many of them having, in years past, been worshippers in St. Andrew's church. There was unbounded sympathy in the language of all for the poor stricken families that had suffered by the sudden, appalling disaster. Most painful scenes occurred at times during the day of PERILING on the part of relatives and friends of the deceased victims, and of those wounded people who had so narrowly escaped death. The stoop leading to the eastern door of the church was pointed to by thousands as the spot where the child had been trodden to death in the frantic effort of the worshippers to escape. Toward this door most people present turned their eyes, conjuring up in their minds, no doubt, the dreadful ten minute scene that had so recently occurred immediately within. Expressions of kindly feeling and condolence were freely uttered when the priests of St. Andrew's, Rev. Fathers Curran and Flynn, appeared amidst the crowds. No fears seemed to be entertained that a further breaking of the walls would occur, and the children were allowed to move about in the neighborhood of the church without any hindrance. The work set on foot in the forenoon to remove some portion of the rear wall, in order to avoid all possibility of further danger, was promptly stopped by the coroners' order, who insisted that the buildings and the debris should not in any way be disturbed until the coroners' jury had seen the ruins and formed an idea of the full nature of the accident. As will be readily understood, the scene at the church and everything that pertained to the dead victims formed the subject of constant and sympathetic inquiry among the people. None of the wounded died during the day, a fact which gave a hopeful view for the ultimate recovery of all these sufferers. The strictest inquiries were made among the officials supposed to be responsible for the proper condition of the buildings, and the public have spread before them to-day all the facts which could be gleaned from reliable sources.

THE PASTOR CAUTIONED.
From a statement made by the Rev. Father Curran, the pastor of the church, it appears that a rumor circulated to the effect that at some time recently he had been notified of the danger threatening the church and cautioned to allow his congregation to occupy the safe gallery is absolutely false. No official or other person notified the pastor that any danger was imminent, or at all likely. The only possible foundation for such a rumor is that on the night of the fire, when the flames were in full force, and he (the pastor) was hurrying to and from the east side of the sanctuary, to remove the sacred vessels and the vestments, he was cautioned by some one to take care of himself, as there was no telling whether the wall at that side might not fall in. No person ever had given him a warning since. The pastor also stated it was not true that the doors of the church were locked, and that he fully enough of room for egress and for the escape.

THE ONLY redeeming feature of such a distressing calamity is the sympathetic charity which it evokes in the hearts of the generous. Scarcely had the news of the awful disaster gone forth when noble men came promptly forward to announce that they were ready to give as much as they could to relieve the sufferings of the stricken families whose bread-winners were dead or wounded, or who were unable to bury their dear ones. Messrs. Martin, B. Brown and William A. Butler have subscribed \$100 each for this purpose, and handed the amount named to Father Curran, and another gentleman, whose name was modestly withheld, gave the same amount. Others gave smaller amounts to the pastor, who was not a little touched by such prompt and timely generosity. A letter printed below suggests the propriety of a general subscription which might alleviate much of the distress.

THE FUNERALS
Will, as far as could be ascertained yesterday, mostly take place on Sunday afternoon, about two o'clock. Last night's wakes were held over the remains of the writer's son, and the residence of the Feeney family, who lost a beloved boy of five, and the McGinnis family, whose loss of the mother was also a most severe one, and the scenes at the wakes were of a sad and painful interest. No less than five homes were hushed in the stillness of death, while more than thirty others resounded with the moans and lamentations of the disabled and the sick. Fortunately no additional deaths occurred yesterday, so that the list of the dead remains still complete and correct. It is a fearful task, however, to be compelled to state that the doctors consider the death of three of the patients at the Park Hospital as inevitable.

THE THREE UNDEAD VICTIMS
limited to Michael Spillane, Mary Jane Martin and Patrick Lavelle. Michael Spillane, a young boy of thirteen, a mere child, presented a most disconcerting spectacle. His face was horribly disfigured, a terrific scar running back from his right eye to the side of his head. His expression was one of intense agony, and the relatives of the child, as they crowded round his blood-stained couch, seemed almost paralyzed by the shock

which the aspect of the poor child gave them, for only the day before they had seen him, in the bloom and freshness of joyous youth. As the physician dressed him, his piercing shrieks rose above the moans of all the other wounded. During the greater part of the morning he was unconscious, his breath was heavy, and his stupor broken every now and then by his moans. His arm is fractured at the shoulder and the flesh is broken, and he sustained a scalp wound five inches in length. The doctor says he is likely to die of concussion of the brain.

MARY JANE MARTIN,
the second of the victims upon whom death has laid its awful grip, is a young and rather prepossessing girl of fifteen. She was brought to the hospital in an unconscious state, and remained so yesterday. She is also likely to die of concussion of the brain, and scarcely any hopes are entertained of her recovery. Many friends and relatives gathered around her bed and wept bitter tears at the sad fate of this young and hopeful girl, to whom, probably, only a day before life had been fair with the promise of many years of health and enjoyment. They were touchingly earnest in their entreaties to the surgeons to save her, but their anxious words met with no encouraging response.

PATRICK LAVELLE,
the last in this list of the young men of twenty-five, of splendid physical development. His spine is fatally injured and paralysis in the lower extremities had set in. He last evening conversed with a friend who came to see him, and asked him to seek out his mother. Mrs. McGinnis, who was in the church when the wall fell, and his friend had to bring him the distressing news that his mother was dead and was soon to be buried. The knowledge of this terrible fact aggravated the condition of the poor young man, and his agony is likely soon to be relieved forever.

THE WOUNDED
who remained at the Park Hospital yesterday, and who will probably recover, were five in number:—
Kate Nathan, a rather prepossessing young girl of twenty, of delicate frame, who had a scalp wound extending backward from a point two and a half inches above her right ear three inches and a half. No fracture, however, was discovered, but her suffering from the effect of the shock were very great.

Patrick Fay, a boy of twelve, who was trampled upon by the falling debris, and sustained considerable injuries to the forehead and in the chest. He was brought in unconscious. His condition yesterday was dangerous, though not deemed positively fatal.

Dennis Healy, aged forty-two, sustained serious injuries of the head, and was very much better yesterday, and bore up wonderfully under his affliction. There is no doubt that he will recover.

Edward Conlan, aged thirty-seven, was suffering from a serious wound on the head, but fortunately there was no fracture of the skull.

AT BELLEVUE HOSPITAL
there was only one of the victims of the catastrophe, a middle-aged woman named Ellen Kavanaugh, who had been caught, as she said, between the wall that had fallen and a pew and slightly injured her back. She was a good, simple-minded person, who seemed still to realize all the terrors of the situation at the crash of the night before when she recalled it to her mind. She smiled when she said to the reporter, "Like all good Christians I was at church, when all the rubbish fell down of a sudden," and her memory had sustained so serious a shock that she actually inquired "whether it was last night?" She first thought that she must die after having had such a terrible shock, and she herself wept with grief and joy when Dr. Lewis assured her that she would positively recover.

THE SUFFERERS
The following is a correct list of all the wounded as far as reported up to last evening:—
Baptist, Mr. Catherine, age 27, No. 125 Roosevelt street; scalp wound; taken home.

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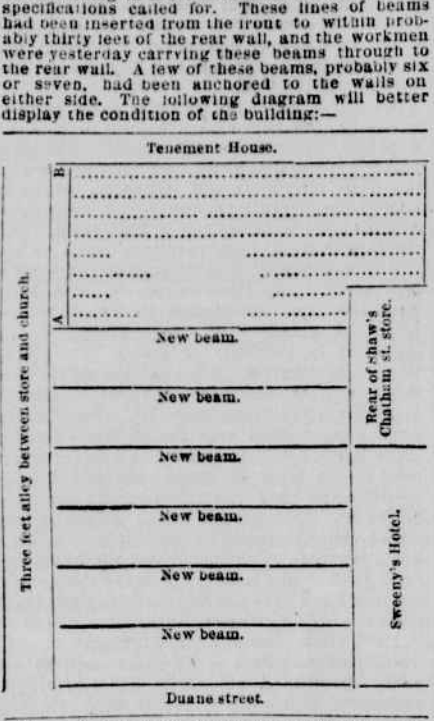
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jurist, trampled to death; found on stairs leading from the gallery.
Michael McCarthy, of No. 42 Park street, aged nineteen, born in the United States, bookbinder, fractured skull, was struck by the falling debris, found in the gallery under a pile of bricks and beams.
Thomas Feeney, seven years old, of No. 19 City Hall place, contusions of head, face, chest and internal injuries; trampled to death; was found on stairs leading from the gallery.
Catharine McGinnis, of No. 27 City Hall place, aged forty-six, born in Ireland, fracture of skull and contusions of right arm and hand; found on stairs leading from the gallery; was struck by the head by a piece of falling beam; knocked down stairs and trampled upon.

Early yesterday Deputy Superintendent Dader, of the Building Department, R. B. Snook, the architect employed by Mr. Shaw, the owner, to superintend the repairing of the building, and several other gentlemen, including the writer, made an inspection of the church and the adjoining building. This established the fact that the portion of the wall that had been built in the upper story. Two rows of beams, running along the line of the fifth and sixth floors, were being put in, in a distance of about eight feet, intervening between the beams, which were inserted for the double purpose of strengthening the walls and to enable the masons to work on the scaffolding in order to remove the walls, as the specifications called for. These lines of beams had been inserted from the front to within a few feet of the rear wall, and the masons were yesterday carrying these beams, probably six or seven feet below the ceiling, and were working on either side. The following diagram will better display the condition of the building:—



The straight lines in the above diagram represent the new joists being put in, and the dotted lines the old joists, partially burned, to remove which it was necessary to cut the beams. The contractor for the brick work is A. M. Titus, and for the carpenter work Dever & Coddington, of No. 6 Duane street. The distance between the beams is about thirty feet and about eight feet of depth. The examination showed that a considerable portion of the wall had fallen into the alleyway. The heavy body of it, including the roof and the beams, had fallen into the alleyway between A and B. The rear wall extends up for two stories, and the front wall extends up for two stories. The wall between the church and the tenement house is about thirty feet long and about eight feet deep. The wall between the church and the tenement house is about thirty feet long and about eight feet deep. The wall between the church and the tenement house is about thirty feet long and about eight feet deep.

THE WORK OF THE CONTRACTORS.
It is not true, as was yesterday stated in some quarters, that the work of the contractors on the day of the accident. The joists marked on the diagram as new ones on the upper story had been put in, while the old ones were being removed. Under were put in some time ago, in compliance with the order of the Superintendent of Buildings. The work of the contractors on the day of the accident was to remove the walls of the two upper stories.

WHAT ARCHITECT SNOOK SAYS.
J. B. Snook, the architect employed by Mr. Shaw, who is spoken of by rival architects as one of the best in the city, was yesterday interviewed by the writer. Mr. Snook desired to have certain alterations made in the building and consulted him on the subject. He said that he had been consulted by Mr. Shaw, who had entrusted the work of repairs to the insurance companies, and that he had been consulted by Mr. Shaw, who had entrusted the work of repairs to the insurance companies, and that he had been consulted by Mr. Shaw, who had entrusted the work of repairs to the insurance companies.

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THE SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDINGS' REPORT TO THE MAYOR.

Mayor Wickham, early in the morning, visited the scene of the disaster and carefully examined the wall of the building No. 25 Duane street, which was struck by the falling debris. He at once went to his office, and was about to send a message to Superintendent Adams, of the Department of Buildings, to come down to the City Hall immediately, when Mr. Adams arrived with the following report:—

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS, No. 2 Fourth Avenue, Feb. 26, 1875.
HON. WILLIAM H. WICKHAM, Mayor:—
Dear Sir:—I respectfully submit to you the facts, so far as I am able to ascertain, of the disaster which occurred on the evening of the 25th inst., causing the death of several persons and the wounding of many others. The records of this department have been carefully examined, and the following facts have been ascertained:—
The building was a three-story structure, the lower two stories being of brick and the upper story of wood. The walls of the lower two stories were of brick, and the walls of the upper story were of wood. The building was in a state of repair, and the walls were in good condition. The disaster occurred on the evening of the 25th inst., at about eight o'clock. The cause of the disaster was the falling of a beam from the upper story, which struck the wall of the lower story, causing it to fall. The falling of the beam was caused by the fact that the beam was not properly secured, and it fell from its position. The falling of the beam caused the wall to fall, and the wall fell on the people who were in the building. The falling of the wall caused the death of several persons and the wounding of many others.

THE DISTRICT INSPECTOR'S REPORT AFTER THE FIRE.
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, OFFICE, No. 4 Fourth Avenue, New York, Jan. 13, 1875.
In the matter of the disaster which occurred on the evening of the 25th inst., at about eight o'clock, at the corner of Duane street and City Hall place, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the same. I have this day examined the building located on the front of the lot on the northeast corner of Duane street and City Hall place, and have found that the building was in a state of repair, and the walls were in good condition. The disaster occurred on the evening of the 25th inst., at about eight o'clock. The cause of the disaster was the falling of a beam from the upper story, which struck the wall of the lower story, causing it to fall. The falling of the beam was caused by the fact that the beam was not properly secured, and it fell from its position. The falling of the beam caused the wall to fall, and the wall fell on the people who were in the building. The falling of the wall caused the death of several persons and the wounding of many others.

THE OFFICIAL OF THE U.S. OWNERS.
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WHAT THE MAYOR SAYS.
Mayor Wickham had a long interview with Superintendent Adams, of the Department of Buildings, yesterday. The Mayor said that he had been very much interested in the disaster, and that he had been very much interested in the disaster, and that he had been very much interested in the disaster. The Mayor said that he had been very much interested in the disaster, and that he had been very much interested in the disaster, and that he had been very much interested in the disaster.

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When any sudden or extraordinary emergency arose. THE SANTIAGO CALAMITY.
The dreadful calamity that occurred in the capital of Chile, Santiago, in December, 1833, must still be in the recollection of many readers. A congregation of over 3,000 women were assembled at their devotions, and the occasion was a high festival of the Church. They included the flower, the beauty and the fashion of Santiago. Suddenly a light from the altar ignited the surrounding drapery, and almost in an instant the interior of the magnificent edifice was one sheet of flame. Five hundred women were killed or wounded, and many were maimed.

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